

The Promise

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

WESTFIELD ✦ NEW JERSEY



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The Timeless Christian Message to Do Good

The extraordinary nature of the Gospel is the timelessness of its message. Today's message, found in Luke 6:31-36 teaches to "love your enemies" and to "do good to those that hate you", once again demonstrates its unique and universal characteristics. – Luke 6:27

Perhaps today, more than ever, we live as tribal people only mingling with those whose vision of society corresponds to our own and then exclude those whose opinions don't align with the clannish tribal behavior. Segregation from others soon follows, as the tribe feels threatened from every outside force. Out of fear, walls of separation are built, and their magnitude become much larger when the tribe seeks to protect its people from violating intruders.

The Gospel message, however, is not tribal nor is it parochial because its message is timeless and universal. The expanse, depth of knowledge and truth

makes its message a powerful, liberating, and enduring force, not just for us today but for all time. And for this reason, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we should never be afraid, timid, or ashamed of what is contained in Holy Scripture. We should uphold it, preserve it, and be emboldened to spread its message to all people as did so many who have come before us.

Very recently, over a short span of time, we have seen that society has devolved into tribalism. A society motivated by cultural and political tribalism can apply powerful pressure to keep people of faith and goodwill silent. What happens when the power of tribal socialism intersects with the zeal of faith and tradition? Which one wins? Currently, a certain segment of society attempts to control all conversations and narratives by limiting thought to a very narrow perspective of life. All too often, people of faith feel powerless and stripped of voice when confronted by the forces of political correctness or censorship. Common sense dictates that anything constantly



forced upon or hammered into a hesitant group should be rejected since this is the simplest definition of subjugation. More and more this social tribalism that we see forces foreign elements upon a traditional society that are, at best, foolish and, at worst, destructive to the defined culture. The impulse to create a new "reality" for the masses all too often destroys that which has long been constructive without offering a concrete model with which to build this "new" and "better" future. Lastly, and perhaps the saddest part of this "modern" tribalism is that it fiercely fights and is the bitter opponent of both natural law and divine reality.

Think of the Apostles at the time of Christ. They were being sent out into a strange and mostly pagan world. Christian identity had not been established and

Continued on page 2 ➔



Wait for the promise of the Father



Dates in the Life of Our Church

October–November 2022

✠ OCTOBER

I	10:00 AM Baptism
	2:30 PM Wedding
2	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
	1:30 Wedding
4	11:00 AM Trinity Circle
	4:00 PM Greek School
6	4:00 PM Greek School
8	11:00 AM Baptism
	11:00 AM JOY/HOPE Apple Picking
9	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
	2:30 PM Wedding
	5:00 PM Mr. & Ms. GOYA
II	St. Philip the Apostle

	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
	4:00 PM Greek School
	7:30 PM Parish Council Mtg.
12	9:30 AM TOTs
	7:00 PM Philoptochos General Mtg.
13	4:00 PM Greek School
15	9:00 AM GOYA Clothing Drive
	10:00 AM Baptism
	2:00 PM Wedding
16	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
	11:00 AM Rel. Ed. Open House
17	7:30 PM NNJYC
18	4:00 PM Greek School
20	4:00 PM Greek School

21	Christ Encounter Weekend
23	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
25	4:00 PM Greek School
26	9:30 AM TOTs
27	4:00 PM Greek School
30	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

✠ NOVEMBER

I	11:00 AM Trinity Circle
	4:00 PM Greek School
3	4:00 PM Greek School
6	Daylight Savings Ends
	8:15 AM Orthros
	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

The Timeless Christian Message

↳ from page 1

there was no traditional code for personal conduct. Persecutors and plotters awaited them. If the Apostles were fearful and dismayed by persecution, they might have wanted to protect themselves by keeping silent and not teaching. If that happened, the radiant sun of the Gospel would have been extinguished. In anticipation of this, the Lord exhorts them not to give way to defensive measures against those who opposed them. But instead, the Lord teaches them to bravely endure all things, even insults and murderous plots. This is what the Lord did on the Cross by saying, “Lord, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” - Luke 23:34.

The Lord explains to His Apostles, and to us, how to overcome the opponents of the Gospel. “What you want to be done to you, do the same to others; and be to others that kind of person you want oth-

ers to be to you.” In other words, if you want your enemies to be hard, unfeeling, and angry towards you, then be that way to them. But if you want them to be kind and compassionate towards you, and not to remember wrongs, do not think that it is impossible for you to be this way to them. The Lord also asks us to go beyond the natural law that is written in our hearts. If you are good to those that are good to you and lend to those who would lend to you, then you have not initiated the higher things in your life. Divine Law surpasses natural law and dictates that you love those who hate you and give to those without expecting in return. When we become kind to the ungrateful and merciful to the sinner, then we begin to live in the paths of the Most High.

In the end, the question that lingers is, do you want to live as a sinner or as God?



Do you want to live in a tribal manner excluding others from your lives or live the higher form that is kind and loving to all. In the end, the higher virtues will overcome the lower elements of this earth. ❖

DISCIPLESHIP

What Will It Cost You?

We have all seen the commercials on television that the Armed Forces use to get recruits. They are alluring appeals to the young men and women of our land. They want people to enlist. They show all the advantages of life in the service like, travel, good pay, medical service, insurance, pension, specialized training, operating big machinery, flying high in the sky, and the like. But nothing is said of the hardships, the drilling, studying, discipline, loneliness and above all the danger.

When our Lord wanted disciples,

when He wanted to get recruits into the Church, He did just the opposite by saying, "Whoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and come follow Me." That was His invitation to every man, woman, and child who would become a disciple of His. Some people think that these words are addressed only to prospective priests, but a careful reading of the text shows Jesus was talking to all who would follow Him.

Christ told His listeners that to be a real Christian was bound to cost something. Jesus calls us to deny ourselves

of that which will rob us of eternal joy. Realize that there are passing pleasures of sin and consider the greater treasures that Christ offers. A person must deny his self entirely, including all of the natural impulses and motives.

The process of denial is to humbly submit your will to God above and be secure in that decision. It means to say, "No!" to yourself and to say "YES!" to God. This is not frightening because the Lord will always be with us and will never leave us orphaned. Our Lord is there for us with open arms, always willing to love and embrace all. ❖





Philoptochos

Update

THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

invites you to join in...

Our mission to help the hungry, forgotten, displaced, abused, those suffering from illness or who simply need encouragement.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday, Sept. 25th

Tray Collection for Hellenic College and Holy Cross

Raffle of Original Oil Painting "Grecian Muse" by Avi Kiriakatis
Sales through Dec 4th. Proceeds to benefit Smile of the Child

OCTOBER

Beginning Oct. 2nd

Christmas Card Fundraiser to benefit Best Buddies

Wednesday, Oct. 12th at 6:30PM

International and Alzheimer's Research

Beginning Oct. 18th

GENERAL MEETING & WINE TASTING

Thanksgiving Dinner Drive to benefit

Market Street Mission

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

"Grecian Muse" Raffle to benefit Smile of the Child

NOVEMBER

Sunday, Nov. 6th

PHILOPTOCHOS SUNDAY

Wednesday, Nov. 12th

Tray Collection in honor of Ss. Cosmas & Damianos

Thursday, Nov. 13th

Metropolis of NJ St. John Chrysostom Vespers

Week of Nov. 28th

@ 215 East Grove Street, Westfield

Metropolis of NJ St. John Chrysostom Divine Liturgy

@ 215 East Grove Street, Westfield

Decorate Church & Christmas Tree

Thanksgiving Dinner Drive to benefit Market Street Mission

Christmas Card Fundraiser to benefit Best Buddies International and Alzheimer's Research

"Grecian Muse" Raffle to benefit Smile of the Child

DECEMBER

Wednesday, December 7th at 6:30PM

CHRISTMAS PARTY & GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, Dec. 15th

Raffle Drawing of "Grecian Muse" Painting

NJ Metropolis Christmas Open House & Tree Lighting

@ 215 East Grove Street, Westfield

Coffee and Tea Serving during Sunday Fellowship

Vasilopita Bread Sale

Christmas Bake Sale

Pastry Baking & Packaging for Friends of Philoptochos

When we all make the decision to care for others, together, we grow in Christ!

Questions? Contact Info@htphiloptochos.com or Maria Kanaras at MariaK@htphiloptochos.com

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Το Χαμόγελο του παιδιού

Raffles will be sold during
fellowship hour through
December 4th

1 ticket - \$10

Winner will be selected on
12/7 at the Ladies
Philoptochos Annual
Christmas Party

Winner need not be present to win



On Sunday, September 26, Holy Trinity held its annual Stewardship Family Picnic and BBQ. This year, His Grace Bishop Apostolos celebrated the Divine Liturgy with Fr. Peter and Fr. John and stayed for the picnic. His Grace enjoyed his time here, the luncheon, and also the lawn of the church by throwing a ball and trying to dunk the person in the dunk tank. We thank Stephen Ladas, Robert Sikellis, and Andy Zotos for working the grill and all others who brought cover-dishes that were enjoyed by all. Also, thanks to Steve Xenakis, who offered nice background music during the picnic. It was a beautiful day for all who attended.



Steve Xenakis offering his musical talents during picnic on his electric guitar



■ BY MOLLY LOVE, PRESIDENT

GOYA has been enjoying a great start to the new year! We ended the summer with a splash at a get-to-know you pool party for our 6th through 9th graders. Thank you to the Drivas family for hosting us in their beautiful backyard! We also had a great Kickoff event last month; starting with pizza, ice cream, and ice breakers in the Bouras Center before heading to Escapology in Garwood for an escape room. We had so much fun working together to find clues and solve tricky puzzles. Both of our teams made it out with over 15 minutes to spare!

On September 18, we headed down to Ocean Grove, New Jersey for the annual Metropolis Diving for the Cross event and the Blessing of the Waters. After celebrating a beautiful Divine Liturgy together with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, Bishop Apostolos, and the entire metropolis, Ari Frantzeskakis, Zoe Frantzeskakis, Zachary Skalkotos, and Sophia Skalkotos represented Westfield by diving for the Cross.

On September 30, we had a rootin'-tootin' good time hosting the first GOYA dance of the year, the Harvest Dance! It took a lot of hands to make it run smoothly, so thank you to all the parents, GOYAns, and parishioners who helped out. It was especially great to have parents of GOYA Alumni back; we have missed them and we really appreciated their help! Special thanks to Roula Ioannou, Chris Vasilopoulos and Steve Ladas for everything they did to help the night come together.

Niko Skalkotos and I will represent Westfield at the Mr. and Miss GOYA Pageant at the Hanover Manor on Oct. 9. We both had a great experience get-

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Not Accepting: large toys, board games, books, puzzles, pots & pans, glass, electrical devices, baby cribs, high chairs, VCR tapes, furniture, outdoor playsets, sports equipment.

DRIVE THROUGH & DROP OFF

9:00-10:00AM

ting to examine our faith a little deeper and spend time with the other church's representatives. We would like to thank Mrs. Tarhanidis and Mrs. Conti for their help in preparing us for the interviews.

We are looking forward to the 46th Annual Christ Encounter Retreat on

Oct 21-23. We're excited to be back at Camp Fairview Lakes again this year and invite all 6-12th grade religious education students to join us for a weekend of faith, fellowship and fun! Stop by the GOYA table on Sundays to learn more! ❖



Holy Trinity Greek School *Principal's School Opening Message 2022*

■ BY STAVROULA MERGOUPIS, HOLY TRINITY GREEK SCHOOL DIRECTOR

September is the month that marks the beginning of a new school year for students and teachers. The beginning of each school year is always a challenge for every student and teacher for new knowledge and experiences. It is a moment of joy, optimism and increased expectations for the school season that begins. Therefore, at the beginning of the new, special school year, I wish, students, teachers and parents, to be effective allies in the struggle to master the knowledge of Greek, and at the same time, to safeguard the health of children and the whole of the community. I am certain that the educational community, despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic, will manage to function again this year as a tightknit unit transmitting love and interest for our Greece. I wish from the bottom of my heart, strength and perseverance, both to the students, our parents and teachers. Have a creative and fruitful school year, with health and success.



On Thursday, September 15 and Tuesday, September 20, Holy Trinity Greek School began with an Agiasmo Service in the church. We sanctify the beginning of the school year asking for divine protection and illumination for all the students and teachers.





Trinity Circle

Update

■ BY AVI KIRIAKATIS, PRESIDENT



September's meeting was wonderful with lots of fun and laughter. We began with Fr. Peter saying a prayer and then took a "Family Feud" style survey to help this year's Christ Encounter Weekend with the youth. Cassandra Romas lead everyone by reading the questions. After the survey, lots of food, cake, cookies, and ice cream donated by Jim Biniaris of Piece of Cake was served. We celebrated Joy Daniledes retirement and wished her

good health and happiness. We thank Adina Toescu for donating the September luncheon in memory of her beloved mother.

Trinity Circle invites all parishioners, age 55 and over, to join and become a member. Tuesday, October 4, will be our next meeting. We meet from 11:00 - 2:00 pm with lunch served at the meeting and social time afterwards. October's luncheon will be donated by Maria Grafas and Harriet Provel in

memory of their loved ones. The November 1st luncheon will be donated by Joy Daniledes in memory of her loved ones. May all their memories be eternal.

In December we have our annual Members Christmas luncheon at Galloping Hill Caterers where we have a delicious full course meal with open bar. We have games with prizes and most of all socialize and have fun with each other. ❖



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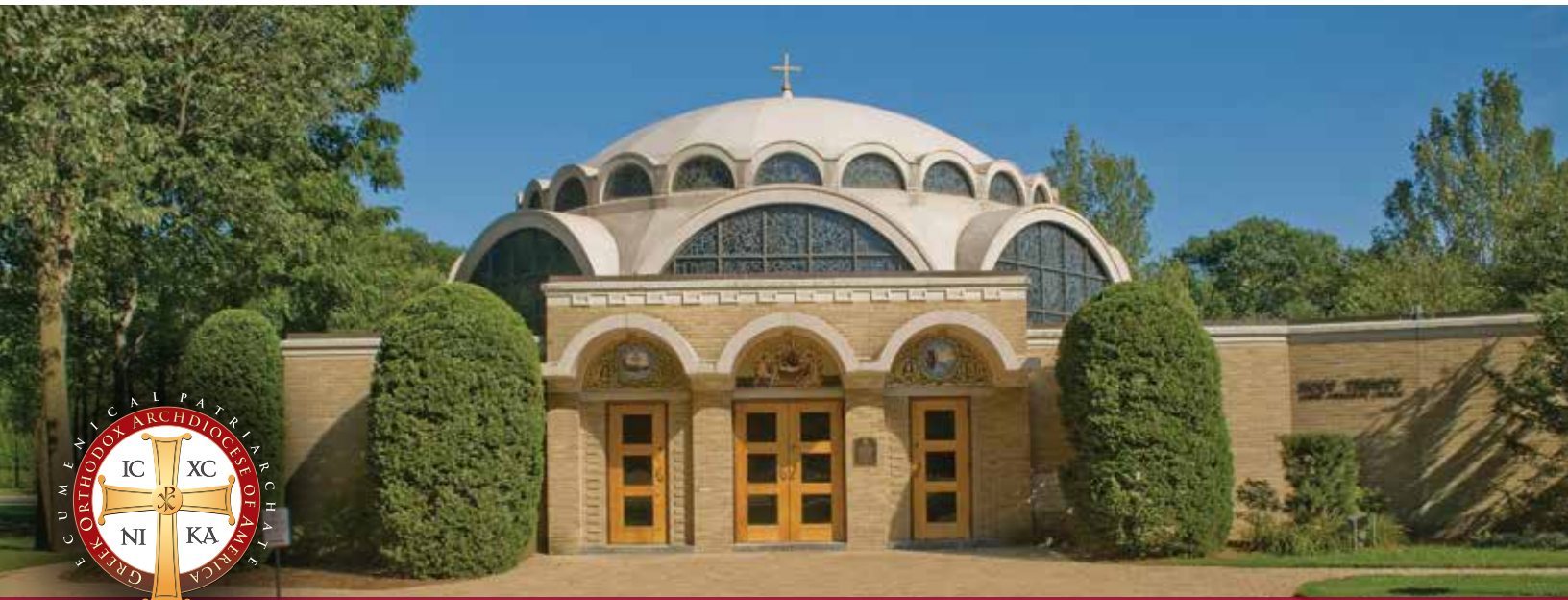
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

	Sundays	Weekdays
Orthros	8:15 AM	8:30 AM
Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM	9:30 AM

THE PROMISE: VOLUME 46, ISSUE 6

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